



25
YEARS

DART RAIL

SINCE 1996



Inmotion
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT

DART RAIL 25TH ANNIVERSARY
COMMEMORATIVE EDITION
SUMMER 2021





DART Rail 25th Anniversary

Light rail system has grown to serve North Texas

On June 14, 2021, DART commemorated the 25th anniversary of the opening of DART Light Rail.

DART opened the first phase of its 20-mile light rail starter system on June 14, 1996, initiating the first modern light rail service in the Southwest.

For the first few months, the agency's electrically powered vehicles served 14 new stations on 11.2 miles of rail lines from downtown Dallas to the South Oak Cliff (Blue Line) and West Oak Cliff (Red Line) sections of the city.

Today, DART Rail is the longest light rail system in the United States with 93 miles of track and 65 stations.



A crowd of about 4,000 local officials, visiting dignitaries, and citizens from across the region weathered 100-degree heat to witness the historic DART Rail dedication ceremony. U.S. Secretary of Transportation Federico Peña gave the keynote address. Platform dignitaries included U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison and U.S. Reps. Eddie Bernice Johnson and Martin Frost.

DART hired a core of rail operators with experience in other transit systems. After receiving training specifically for DART's light rail vehicles, these initial staff began training additional personnel to operate trains. Many of this first class of rail operators were experienced DART bus operators.



Following the June 14 ceremony, crowds took to the tracks for the chance to be among the first to ride DART Rail. The agency offered free rides and a downtown block party at stations throughout the downtown Dallas Central Business District.

On June 15, a daylong Super Saturday celebration offered free rides from all 14 stations and parties – complete with food, music, and other entertainment – at eight stations.





DART opened a six-mile extension of the Red Line in December 1996, which included a 3.5-mile underground tunnel. The new segment transported riders between downtown Dallas and Park Lane Station along North Central Expressway, then the area's most congested freeway.

The starter system was complete in May 1997 when DART extended the South Oak Cliff (Blue) Line to Ledbetter Station to serve three new stations.





The American Public Transportation Association honored DART in September 1997 as the Transit Agency of the Year, the highest honor in the industry.



DART expanded service on the Blue Line between downtown Dallas and Mockingbird Station (now SMU/Mockingbird Station) in September 1999.



Cityplace Station (now Cityplace/Uptown Station), the Southwest's first subway station, opened in December 2000. The tri-level facility reaches depths of 120 feet underneath North Central Expressway and at one point boasted the longest escalators west of the Mississippi River.

From Cityplace/Uptown Station's western street-level entrance, riders have been able to connect to the M-Line Trolley since December 2011.





DART Rail arrived in North Dallas and Richardson in July 2002 with seven new stations, extending the Red Line by more than nine miles to Galatyn Park Station.

Trains rolled into Downtown Garland Station in November 2002, extending the Blue Line more than four miles. A month later, DART Rail extended into Plano as the Red Line reached its end at Parker Road Station.

The agency opened White Rock Station in September 2001, the first stop on the northeast Blue Line extension to downtown Garland.

Light rail pushed past Interstate 635 with the opening of LBJ/Skillman Station in May 2002.



Sports fans, live music enthusiasts, and other riders began taking the train to the American Airlines Center with the opening of Victory Station in November 2004, the first station of the Green Line rail expansion.



After 12 years of rail operators deploying a ramp to an elevated mini-platform, DART started updating its low platforms and fleet of light rail vehicles to allow level boarding. New, low-floor center cars were placed between the existing sections to add seating capacity and improved access for people with wheelchairs, walkers, strollers, bikes and more. The first of these super light rail vehicles began service in June 2008.



The agency opened the first phase of the Green Line's southeast extension in September 2009, adding three miles and four new stations between downtown and MLK, Jr. Station in South Dallas.



Level boarding began at all light rail stations in November 2010, completing 2½ years of construction to create raised level boarding areas that aligned with the light rail vehicles' new low-floor center car.





DART completed the Green Line in December 2010 with the opening of 24 miles and 15 stations, creating new light rail connections for DART riders from southeast Dallas to the cities of Farmers Branch and Carrollton in the northwest. It was the longest single-day opening of electric light rail in the United States since 1990.

Lake Highlands Station – located on the Blue Line and DART’s first station built on an existing rail line – also opened on the same day.



The Monroe Shops building, located at the Blue Line’s Illinois Station, became the new home of the DART Police Department in March 2011. The historic preservation and adaptive reuse of this former interurban railcar maintenance facility garnered awards from Preservation Dallas and Preservation Texas. DART Police Headquarters is one of the first public buildings on the National Register of Historic Places to earn the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum rating from the U.S. Green Building Council.



DART Rail marked 250,000,000 light rail passenger trips as of June 2012.

The long-anticipated Orange Line to Irving opened in July 2012. This first phase was a 5.4-mile section branching off Bachman Station to stations at the University of Dallas, Las Colinas Urban Center and Irving Convention Center.

The agency also renamed two original DART Rail stations to better reflect the neighborhoods they serve: Pearl/Arts District Station and Cityplace/Uptown Station.

Rowlett welcomed long-awaited DART Rail service when the Blue Line extended 4.5 miles to the city's downtown in December 2012. DART also opened the second phase of the Orange Line in Irving, a nearly four-mile extension with new stops at Dallas College North Lake Campus and Belt Line Road.

With these rail extensions, DART Rail became the largest electric light rail system in the nation at 85 miles.





The new DFW Airport Station at Terminal A opened in August 2014, extending the Orange Line 5 miles to reach Dallas Fort Worth International Airport. With the station's opening, visitors and North Texans gained direct rail access between DFW Airport and downtown Dallas.





DART replaced and upgraded the original track through downtown Dallas where all four light rail lines converge. The agency addressed the most worn spots in late 2014. Crews replaced the remaining track, added crossovers, and repaired city streets and drainage throughout 2019. Rail replacement created a smoother ride through downtown, eliminated ongoing maintenance issues, and increased the number of areas where trains can switch tracks, which has reduced service disruptions.



Starting with Ledbetter Station in February 2015, the agency began the process of extending the platforms and moving the level-boarding areas at 28 Red and Blue line stations. When complete, these modifications will enable all stations to accommodate three-car light rail vehicle trains, increasing rail capacity both in downtown Dallas and systemwide.



DART completed the plan for 93 miles of light rail with the opening of the last Blue Line extension in October 2016. The rail line added three miles south and opened new stations at Camp Wisdom and UNT Dallas, improving transit connections to the University of North Texas at Dallas and Dallas College Cedar Valley Campus.

DART began installing more than 300 interactive digital kiosks across the service area in January 2020. In the largest deployment of its kind by a public transit agency, DART launched the first interactive kiosks at J.B. Jackson, Jr. Transit Center in Dallas.





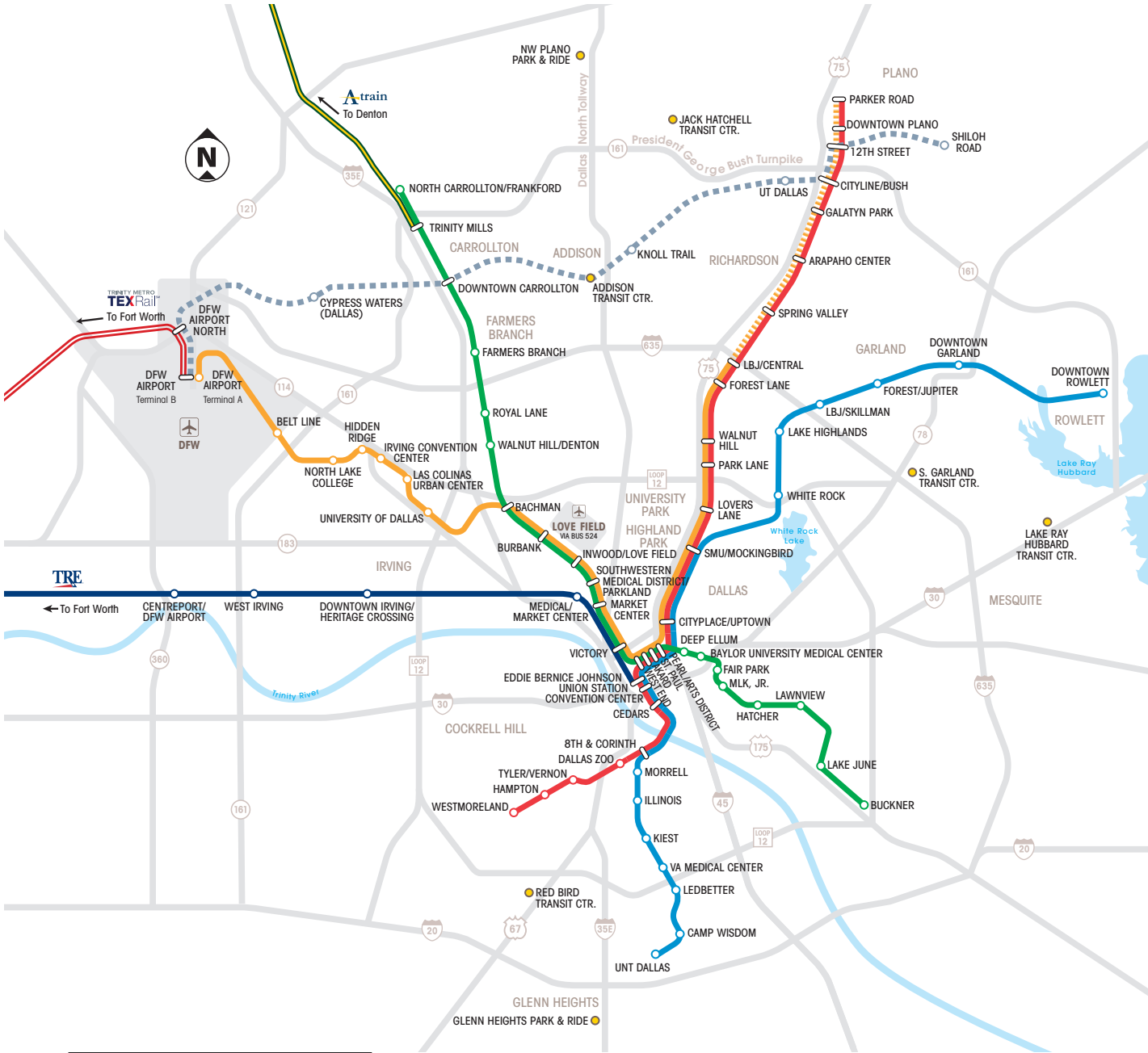
The agency opened Hidden Ridge Station at Carpenter Ranch in Irving along the Orange Line in April 2021. Developed in partnership with the city of Irving and Verizon Communications, the station serves the growing Hidden Ridge development.



Also in April, the Federal Transit Administration announced to the public, stakeholders, and agencies that the D2 Subway Final Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision (FEIS/ROD), along with the 30% design, were complete. The completion of the FEIS/ROD environmentally clears the project so it can continue to advance into the next stage of development.

Preliminary design included renderings of the future D2 Subway stations and their street access facilities.

DART Current and Future Rail Services

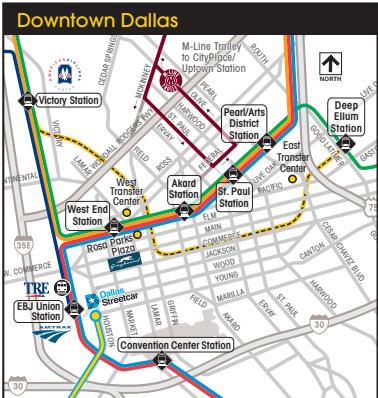


Map Legend

- Blue Line
- Red Line
- Green Line
- Orange Line
- Orange Line Weekdays Peak Only
- Trinity Railway Express (No Sunday Service)
- TEXRail (Trinity Metro)
- A-Train (DCTA)
- M-Line Trolley
- Dallas Streetcar
- Transit Center or Park & Ride

Inset Map

Logos for Trinity Metro, TEXRail, A-Train, Dallas Streetcar, and DART are included.



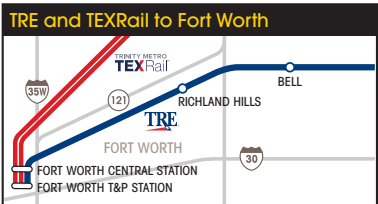
Future Services

DESIGN/CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

- Silver Line (2024)

PLANNING/DESIGN UNDERWAY

- D2 Subway (Inset Map)





DALLAS AREA RAPID TRANSIT
MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS
P.O. BOX 660163
DALLAS, TX 75266-7203

DART Board of Directors Announces Nadine Lee as New President & Chief Executive Officer



The DART Board of Directors has announced the appointment of Nadine Lee as the agency's new president and chief executive officer. Lee, an experienced transit industry leader and engineer who has worked in the transportation industry for nearly 30 years, assumed her new position July 12.

Lee has served as the chief of staff of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Previously, she was the deputy chief innovation officer in Metro's Office of Extraordinary Innovation.

Before her tenure at Metro, she led the development and implementation of the Flatiron Flyer bus rapid transit for Denver's Regional Transportation District (RTD).

Lee was appointed to the Leadership APTA Committee in 2019 and is a past director of the WTS International board. She was also honored as the WTS International Woman of the Year in 2019. A registered Professional Engineer in Colorado and Kansas, Lee received her B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri-Columbia.

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